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## LOCAL ECONOMY RESEARCHES. CAZASU RURAL AREA – NORTH BRAILA TERRACE

### ABSTRACT

The main purpose of this paper is to assess the competitiveness of the SIRIUS<sup>1</sup> Irrigation Project in the Cazasu Rural Area – North Braila Terrace. SIRIUS aims to establish innovative and new service capacities for the irrigation water management user community with the vision of bridging and integrating sustainable food production with fair economic competitiveness, and within wise water governance scenarios that prevent water conflicts. The backbone of the downstream service stimulation and validation activities will be a set of eight **Case Studies**, to be performed in selected pilot areas in Spain, Italy, Romania, Turkey, Egypt, India, Mexico, and Brazil (abbreviated in the following as ES, IT, RO, TU, EG, IN, MX, and BR, respectively). These Cases have been selected according to the diversity of conditions (source of water, technical and management skills, etc.) across the European and Southern Mediterranean, Asia, and Latin America and to the availability of data, information, and knowledge from previous or ongoing activities.

**Key words:** irrigation, competitiveness.

**JEL Classification:** Q15, Q56.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

SIRIUS addresses efficient water resource management in water-scarce environments. It focuses in particular on water for food production with the perspective of a sustainable agriculture in the context of integrated river-basin management, including drought management. It aims at developing innovative and new service capacities for the user community of irrigation water management and sustainable food production, in accordance with the vision of bridging and integrating sustainable development and economic competitiveness. SIRIUS addresses users (water managers and food producers) at scales ranging from farm, over irrigation scheme or aquifer, to river-basins. It will provide them with maps of irrigation water requirements, crop water consumption and a range of further products for sustainable irrigation water use and management under conditions of water scarcity and drought, integrated in leading-edge participatory spatial online Decision-support systems. The SIRIUS service concept considers the economic, environmental, technical, social, and political dimensions in an integrated way.

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Irrigation water management and River-basin governance: Implementing User-driven Services, FP 7, 2010–2013.

Romania has a total of 15 million hectares of agricultural land, two thirds of which are arable, giving the agricultural sector considerable potential to produce a commercially viable and diverse mix of temperate crop and livestock products. Yet the agriculture sector today is still in disarray, due mainly to problems inherited from the socialist regime and to difficulties in implementing transition policies.

Irrigation is vital to Romanian agriculture for several reasons. First, it offsets rain deficits in the country's semi-arid southern and eastern regions. While average annual rainfall for the country is 750 mm, the average rainfall in the southern and eastern regions is less than 500 mm (the typical upper bound of semi-aridity), with uneven seasonal distributions (less than 20% of total rainfall occurs in summer). The water demands of crops during July and August are 300–500 mm, leaving a crop water deficit of some 200–350 mm. This makes irrigation necessary for most summer crops such as maize, vegetables, sugar beet, sunflowers, potatoes, and alfalfa. Irrigation also minimizes the climatic risks affecting agriculture, ensuring the stability in production necessary for commercial farming. It can also encourage private farmers in certain areas to convert to higher value crops such as vegetables.

## 2. MATERIAL AND METHOD

Framework will be drawn up that will define the participatory tools and the data required to delineate the community fabric of the pilot area and would include the use of people participatory. It will describe the set of data/information that has to be collected and the collection methodology to be employed at each pilot area. It will define the criteria to be used; the type of maps, (real or perception) to be collected. It will set up common templates for data collection; establish what type of questionnaires are required to collect what data; lay down the procedures to be followed and the methodologies that will be used for analysis.

The Framework will also outline a training program to set up the community PPGIS in each pilot area with the use of field toolsets that would include, GPS, mobile GIS and field data drawing and recording. It will include a detailed and creative approach of how data preparation techniques will be employed for community interactive mapping using visualization techniques that will help understand spatial relationships of land and water ownership in the field, and approach spatial conflicts with a different perspective.

The training programme will be dependent on the water culture and landscape characteristics of each pilot area and already available information.

## 3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

*The South-Eastern Region* is situated in the second in size among the eight development regions, having a surface of 35.762 2 (15% out of the total surface of the country). The South-Eastern Region has natural boundaries formed by river

Prut, the Danube river and the Black Sea. It comprises almost all landscape forms: Danube alluvial plain, Baraganului Plain and Covurluiului Plain, Dobrogea Plateau, Macinului Mountains and a part of the Curbura Carpathians and Curbura Sub Carpathians. The region is traversed by the Danube River, comprises the Danube Delta and it borders in the east the entire Romanian sea side of the Black Sea (245 km). The climate is temperate-continental with frosty winters in the west and more moderated in the south. The area of the Romanin plain has, usually, canicular summers and gentle winters. In the eastern part, due to the sea's influences, autumns are long and springs are late.

The structure of gender of the population of the region shows a reduction of the male gender population: In the urban environment 764.327 persons in 2004, compared to 761.994 persons in 2005, respectively in the rural environment: 635.728 persons in 2004 compared to 635.023 persons in 2005. The most important decreases of masculine population are recorded in counties Constanta and Galati. The predominance of feminine gender population was recorded in all the counties of the region. For each county, the most important growth of population was recorded in Constanta – 30.893 persons; in Vrancea there was a growth in the total population, respectively 393.766 persons in 2004 compared to 391.220 persons in the year 2000.

The birth rate is dropping, and the young and mature population migrates into the urban environment, leading thus to the ageing of population into the rural environment. Per age groups, we record the same values at national and regional level.

The specific of the South-Eastern Region *is represented by the disparities between the nodes of concentration of industrial and third party activities* (Braila – Galati; Constanta – Navodari), the complex industrial centers, areas with tourist specific (the seaside and the Delta) and the wide areas of agricultural and vineyard cultures (Buzau, Focsani).

By tradition, the *South-Eastern Region is an agricultural one*. The pedo-climate conditions favor the cultures of corn (mainly in the North), grain (mainly in the center of the region), barley, industrial plants, and sun flower (especially in Constanta – the region occupying 1<sup>st</sup> place on national level). In the South-Eastern region there is the largest agricultural exploitation in Romania, the cultivated surface representing over 45% out of the total. The land improvement works in Balta Brailei (especially drainage works) have allowed the introduction into the agricultural circuit of an important surface of alluvial soils. Despite its elevated agricultural potential, the capacity of processing agricultural products is not very elevated. The fragmentation of agricultural surfaces, low economic potential of small farms and inefficient management of agricultural exploitations have determined the sub development of the sector of processing agricultural products and represent obstacles in the development of agriculture. 33.22% from the occupied population of the Region works in agriculture. The agricultural surface represents 65.23% out of the total surface of the region. The private sector has the biggest share of the agricultural land and produces the biggest part of the agricultural production (92.3% out of the total agricultural production of the region, in 2005).

Most of the foreign investments in the region are concentrated in the naval constructions industry, food processing industry and light industry.

The industry and services are concentrated into the main urban centers. The main branches of industry in the region: petrochemical industry (Navodari), metallurgy (Galati and Tulcea), industry manufacture of vehicles, (Braila, Buzau, Constanta, Tecuci), naval constructions and sea drilling platforms (Galati, Constanta, Braila, Tulcea, Mangalia), construction materials (Medgidia), confections (Braila, Buzau, Constanta, Focsani, Galati, Tulcea).

Tourism in the region is diversified, in here being present almost all types of tourism: sea side tourism, mountain, cruise, cultural, business, ecologic tourism, balneal, agro tourism, leisure week-end, sporting fishing and hunting, nautical sports.

In the last 10 years, the Gross Domestic income of **Braila county** has increased in an average rhythm 2.8% close to the regional level (2.7%) but inferior to the national one (6.2%). Despite the growth in this period, the disparity index of the gross domestic income per inhabitant compared to the national average has decreased from 84% in 1999 to 68.9% in the year 2008. Into the structure of the county gross domestic product, agriculture has share which exceeds 10% (under the national average which is smaller then 10%).

The total population of Braila County registered in the year 2008 is of 3 63.979 inhabitants, compared to 370.941 inhabitants in 2005. We notice a decrease of the number of inhabitants in the county, from one year to the other.

While in 2005, the population was formed by 189.979 women and 180.962 men, in 2008, the male inhabitants' number 177.067, and women 186.912.3 Just like in the case of the general population, the descendent trend is kept also for the distribution of the population depending on gender.

Regarding the distribution of the population per labor age, in the year 2008, from a total of 232.317, 121.670 inhabitants were represented by men and 110.647 women, both categories being in decrease compared to prior years.

Braila County has at the end of year 2008 a number of 40 communes. Into the county there is one single new commune, formed by the administrative reorganization of commune Tudor Vladimirescu: commune Cazasu, declared by Law 376/2003.

The average dimension of the commune into the county is of 3201,3 inhabitants, smaller then the average for the country of 3426 inhabitants/commune.

The distribution of the population in rural UATs (2006) indicates a predominance of average scale communes:

- 3 communes have the population over 5000 inhabitants: Viziru, Tufesti, Chiscani
- 20 communes have population between 3001 and 5000 inhabitants
- 10 communes have population between 2001 and 3000 inhabitants
- 7 communes have less then 2000 inhabitants, the smallest being Racovita, with 1309 inhabitants.

From the labor resources point of view, at the level of the year 2008, Braila county was situated on the 5<sup>th</sup> place out of the 6 counties of the South-Eastern

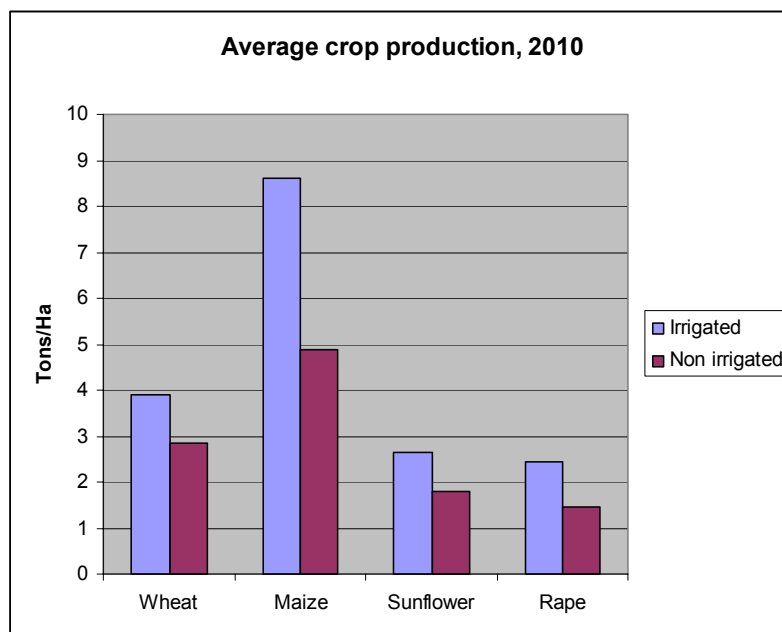
Region, with a share of 12.8% from the total of the region's occupancy, on a standstill compared to previous years.

Furthermore, occupied population of the county Braila occupies 5<sup>th</sup> position with (12.5%) out of the total occupancy of the region, level in a slight increase compared to previous years.

In the year 2008 the rate of the recorded unemployment was of 4.4%, on second place within the South-Eastern Region, next to other two counties (Tulcea and Vrancea).

At the end of June 2009, the rate of unemployment recorded was of 6%, the county being place on 4<sup>th</sup> place within the region.

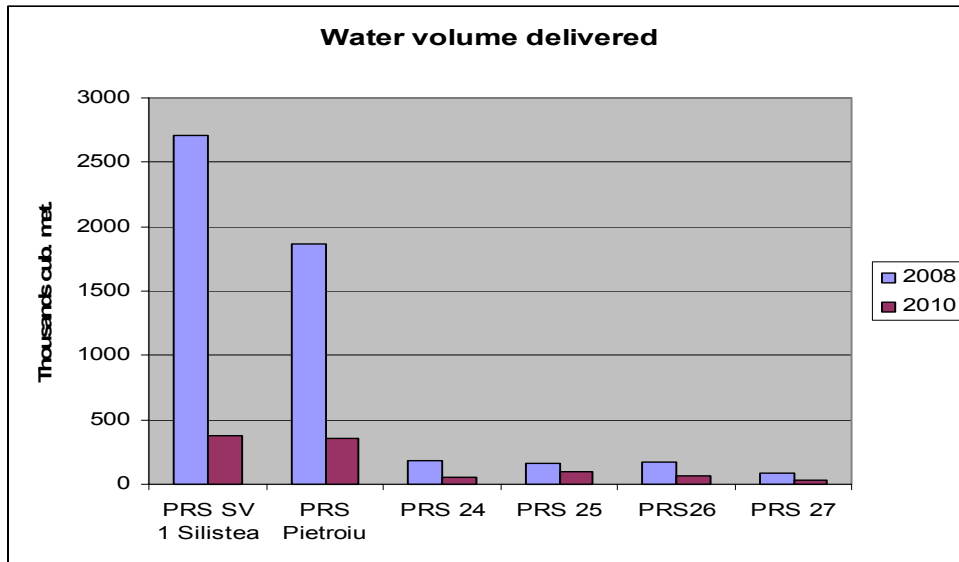
Labor market in Braila County after a drop of civil occupied population in the year 2009 (with around 2.5%), starting with 2010 the county shall record a slight growth, in the year 2012 the county being on the same 5<sup>th</sup> place within the region and on 33<sup>rd</sup> in the national top of counties, but without reaching the amount of 132,2 thousand people as it was in the year 2008. therefore, at the end of the prognosis interval, respectively the year 2015, the number of the civil occupied population at the end of the year shall be of 131,2 thousand persons.



Source: Direcția pentru agricultură, Brăila, 2011.

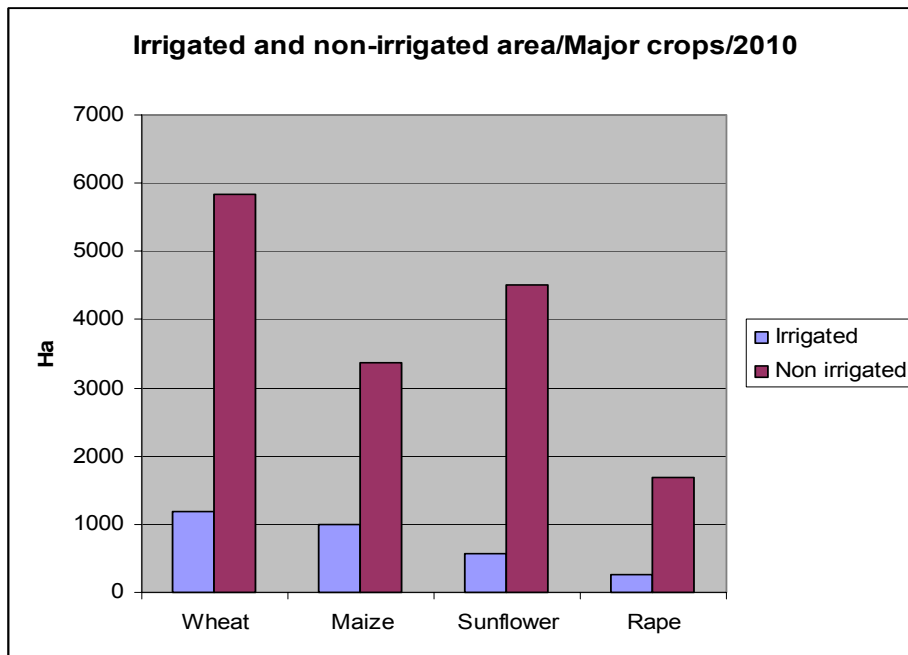
Figure 1. Braila County – Average crop production.

Out of the total surface of 476.576 hectare, the agricultural surface of the country, registered in the year 2005, 3 88.428 ha, dropping up to 3 87.392 ha, in the year 2008.



Source: ANIF, Braila 2011.

Figure 2. Water volume delivered.



Source: ANIF, Braila 2011.

Figure 3. Irrigated and non-irrigated area – Major crops – 2010.

Into the total of the agricultural surface, the part held by the state sector, even if smaller than the one held by the private sector, has registered during the years 2004–2008 a growth from 73.014 ha to 79.860 ha.

Into the total of the agricultural surface, pasturages have the highest part, recording a growth in the year 2008 reaching at 33.171 ha, compared to the year 2007, without reaching the value held in 2005, 33.304ha.

**Water users associations** – 6 Irrigation Water Users Organizations: Pietroiu, Tevesil, Nova Prod Terra, Petros, Agro Dunarea and Danovaleg – served by 6 Pressure Release Stations: PRS Pietroiu, PRS SV1 Silistea, PRS 24, PRS 25 and 27, PRS 26.

#### SWOT ANALYSIS

Natural frame	
Strong points	Weak points
<p>Central situation within the Development South-Eastern Region.</p> <p>Location of the county into a region with favourable potential of development determined by the variety and importance of resources – Danube Delta, Danube River, seaside areas and mountain areas.</p> <p>Small distance to the capital of the country</p> <p>Presence of crude oil resources, natural gas and mineral waters.</p> <p>Existence of salt lakes, with sapropelic mud, with therapeutic qualities .</p> <p>Important water resources provided especially by the Danube river.</p> <p>The presence of soils with high fertility, favourable to agricultural cultures.</p> <p>The presence of valuable flora and fauna, especially into the Danube and Balta Brailei.</p>	<p>Existence of subterranean water resources with low degree of drink ability.</p> <p>Manifestation of certain extreme climate phenomenon, such as blizzards and draught.</p> <p>Excessive aridity of the territory.</p> <p>Existence of a very small surface of forest vegetation.</p> <p>Increase of agricultural surfaces in the detriment of natural vegetation, having as consequence the reduction of biodiversity.</p>
Opportunities	Threats
<p>Availability of European funds for financing projects meant to protect and valorise the natural capital as tourist resource.</p>	<p>Manifestation of extreme climate phenomenon with negative consequences over economic activities.</p> <p>Poaching and hunting of species of animals over the admitted effectives.</p>
Population and labour force	
Strong points	Weak points
<p>Balanced distribution of the population, depending on gender, in the year 2008 being recorded 177.067 men and 186.912 women.</p> <p>Trend ascendant of the population with ages comprised between 20 and 35 years.</p> <p>Agriculture implies the biggest number of workers, over 40 thousand people being employed annually into this economic sector.</p>	<p>The general tendency of decrease in the number of inhabitants, both in the rural and urban environment.</p> <p>The population under 20 years old records an accentuated drop in 2007 compared to 2008; still in numerical decrease we can find the age groups 40–59 years and 60–74, but with a more reduced average.</p>
<p>The number of unemployed is dropping in Braila county, reaching to 6026 in the year 2008, compared to the year 2005 when there were over 9.000 unemployed.</p> <p>The rate of unemployment is inferior to the one reported at the regional level.</p> <p>He occupied population of Braila county holds the 5<sup>th</sup> position with (12.5%) out of the total of the region's occupancy, a level in slight growth compared to the previous years.</p>	<p>Negative migratory spore: departures with county residence exceed the arrivals with over 200%.</p> <p>The population with working ages is in decrease compared to the previous years.</p> <p>Negative natural spore (–1.62).</p> <p>The number of employees, although had grew in the year 2007 from 73.469 to 76.612, records a drop in the year 2008, at 75.845 persons.</p>

<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>The growth of demand for services designated to persons and companies. Financing in the field of human resources (POS DRU). Reduction of unemployment by adapting the environment and professional training to the necessities of the labour market. Balanced repartition of urban centres on the territory of the county.</p>	<p>Economic conditions, lack of medical services especially lead to the decrease of the birth-rate. Migration of the young and mature population. Risk of de-profession. Growth of the demographic ageing index. Lowering of the living level by decreasing labour resources.</p>
<b>Economy</b>	
<b>Strong points</b>	<b>Weak points</b>
<p>Presence of rich and varies local resources. In the last 10 years, the gross domestic product of Braila county has risen in an average rhythm of 2.8%, close to the regional level (2.7%). Industry is situated around 22% out of the GDP and constructions participate with 7–8% (levels close to the national average).</p>	<p>The disparity index of the gross domestic product per inhabitant compared to the national average has dropped from 84% in the year 1999 to 68.9% in the year 2008. Into the structure of the county gross domestic product, agriculture has a share which exceeds 10% (under the national average which is smaller then 10%). The sector of services exceeds slightly 40% from the GDP (level inferior to the national average – around 50%). Industrial production in Braila County has recorded, in the year 2008, a decrease of 0.9%.</p>
<p>Large agricultural surface. Big share of the state sector into the total of the agricultural surface. The production of cereals was of 611,560 in 2008, respectively 287,495 tons for 2007. In the year 2007, in Braila county there was a number of 6,862 active enterprises, growing compared to the previous year (6.568 active enterprises). The micro enterprises have the largest share into the total of active enterprises into Braila county, reaching a number of 6048 in the year 2007. Big tourist offer. Areas with values of natural and constructed patrimony.</p>	<p>County Braila has a modest contribution into the volume of the exterior commerce of the South-Eastern Region (represents 6.7% out of the exports of the region and 4% out of the imports). The surface reserved for orchards and tree farms is decreasing, reaching in the year 2008 top 640 ha.</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>The position of port to the Danube of Braila municipality may represent a favouring factor to economic development. The presence on the territory of Braila county of natural resources may contribute to the increase of the area economic potential. The declaration of municipalities Galati and Braila as urban development poles. Possibility for setting up industrial parks. Cooperation between economic agents and forming of industrial clusters. Existence of national and European programs for supporting development/ innovation, research and transfer of technology. Growth of the degree of use of the resources of regenerated energy leads to economic growth and introduction of new technologies. Accelerated tendency of concentration of agricultural lands. Demand for ecological agricultural products. Promotion of local, traditional products. Increased interest at national and international level for agro tourism. Availability of financing for the development of the business environment and support of SME (through</p>	<p>Bigger costs, for economic agents, of conforming to the environmental standards; difficult procedures for getting approvals (for example the environmental licence) by commercial companies. Accentuation of the deindustrialization process. Reduced capacity of country households and farms of competing with community products. Risk of de-localization of certain industrial sectors towards external locations (ex. Republic Moldavia and Ukraine), due to reduced costs. Concurrence of tourist areas with similar tourist offers in other regions or neighboring countries. Dysfunctions of the land market and lease procedures. Not realizing tourism projects due to difficulties connected to the property of lands in the areas with tourist potential.</p>



POS CCE, POS DRU). Availability of funding for the rural environment (through PNDP, POS DRU). Availability of funding for tourism (through POR, PNR).	
<b>Territory equipment</b>	
<b>Strong points</b>	<b>Weak points</b>
<p>The number of housings is growing starting with the year 2005 when they used to reach a value of 135.101, reaching in 2008 to 135.816, the increase being of approximately 700 housings.</p> <p>The existence of two European roads E 87 and E 584.</p> <p>The road network covers in a balanced way the territory of the county.</p> <p>Location of Braila county at the eastern boarder of the EU and possibility of interconnecting the European transport system to the neighbouring sites.</p> <p>The existence of a railroad network that provides connection to the rest of the country.</p> <p>The Danube as main navigation way, both fluvial and fluvial-maritime.</p> <p>Out of the total of 264 km representing the length of national roads, there were realised improvements for 233 km, while 31 km dispose of light road coverage.</p> <p>The supply of important localities in the median part of Braila county, by means of a transport system of pipelines oriented east-west and north-east south-west.</p>	<p>Out of the total of 923 km representing the length of county and communal roads, only for 47 de km there have been made improvements, while 507 km dispose of slight road coverage.</p> <p>Additional roads with only two lanes.</p> <p>Lack of a bridge over the Danube, at Braila, to connect counties Braila and Galati.</p> <p>The precarious state of road local-county and communal infrastructure, especially in the rural areas.</p> <p>Inexistence of electrified railroads.</p> <p>The suburban transport network is inadequate to the actual requirements of safety and comfort.</p> <p>In the year 2008 out of the 381 km representing the length of city roads, only for 140 km there have been realized improvements and modernizations.</p> <p>Only 31 communes are endowed with water supply network, 2 with sewerage systems and 7 with natural gas network.</p> <p>No commune in Braila county has networks for supply of thermal energy.</p> <p>The surface of green space for head of inhabitant is of 13.83 mp/head, that is under the European standard of 22–26 mp/head of inhabitant.</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Existence of European funds for the modernization of infrastructure in the road and railroad sector – Sector Transport Operational Program 2007–2013.</p> <p>Development programs for the national networks of railroads according to the Strategy for Development of Railroad Infrastructure in Romania - period 2001–2010, developed by the National Company for Railroads S.A.</p> <p>Construction of a highway and express roads provided into the Plan for Arranging National Territory Section I – Transport networks.</p> <p>Construction of the bridge over the Danube, provided into the Plan for Arranging National Territory Section I – Transport networks.</p> <p>Construction of an international airport in the development area Braila-Galati provided into the Plan for Arranging National Territory Section I – Transport networks.</p> <p>Construction of an express road between municipalities Braila and Galati.</p> <p>Existence of governmental programs for supporting investments into the field of recovery and extension of water, sewerage and treatment of waste waters systems.</p> <p>Extension and modernization of public services of water, sewerage and treatment of waste waters supply systems answers to the requirements comprised into the European directives.</p> <p>Public services of water and sewerage systems, through their social dimensions, provide working places for a big number of employees, especially providing population with optimum living conditions.</p>	<p>Displacement of traffic on the sector of railroad transport to the road one.</p> <p>Allocation of reduced resources for the systems of road and railroad transport.</p> <p>Diminishing the volume of persons and assets transport volume.</p> <p>Damaging living and environmental conditions.</p> <p>Redirecting a big part of the fluvial transport through the channel Danube-Back Sea.</p> <p>Elevated costs in the transport of assets, reducing thus efficiency and diminishing the demand for transport.</p> <p>Permanent risk of degradation in the environmental factors, as a follow up of small number of localities with centralized installations for sewerage and water supply.</p> <p>Localities which have water supply in centralized system, but have no sewerage and treatment systems for waste waters are a major factor of pressure over the environment.</p> <p>Lack of prompt interventions regarding the equipment with centralized installations of water supply and sewerage leads to the depopulation of rural environment.</p>

<b>Social Sector</b>	
<b>Strong points</b>	<b>Weak points</b>
<p>Diversity and relatively large number of similar units of superior level at the county level.</p> <p>Existence of certain actions and projects for the recovery of spaces appropriate for hospitals.</p> <p>Possibility of building a new emergency hospital and new speciality sections at superior level.</p> <p>Finalization of the reform process in the field of child protection, concretized through the development of alternatives of family type to the residential protection of classical type.</p> <p>Performing specialized services (in the field of child protection and adult disabled persons) by observing quality standards specific for each type of service.</p>	<p>Increasing Trend of persons requiring medical care in the year 2008.</p> <p>Endowment of the county with sanitary units at superior level is reduced at territorial level, the existent ones being grouped into the municipality county residence.</p> <p>Compared to the number of inhabitants, the endowment of the county with hospital beds is inferior to the average at national level.</p> <p>There are cities without hospitals (Insuratei and Ianca);</p> <p>Week diversification of education services at territorial level.</p> <p>Decline of the professional education;</p> <p>Insufficient appropriateness of education offers in fields adequate to the economical development needs specific to the county.</p> <p>The school population of the county is decreasing, from 60.589 in the year 2005 to 55.106 in the year 2008, while didactic staff decreased from 3.863 in 2005 to 3.668, in 2008.</p> <p>Te existence of a single day care centres for children functioning in the municipality Braila, the county residence, being insufficient, taking into account the large number of children coming from families in difficulty, requiring thus the granting of this primary service;</p> <p>At the level of county councils in the county Braila, primary services are inexistent or insufficiently developed, determining thus the growth in the number of beneficiaries of specialized social services.</p> <p>Reduced number of private suppliers of social services, at the county level, justified by the insufficient development of the public-private partnership in the field of granting social services.</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Financing programs for social assistance (POR, national programs).</p> <p>Financing programs for health (POR, national programs).</p> <p>Financing programs for culture (POR, Natural Restructuring Plan).</p> <p>National programs of recovery, modernization and endowment of cultural establishments, in the rural and small urban environments.</p> <p>Financing programs for the recovery of educational establishment units (POR, World Bank).</p> <p>The new regulations of the Ministry of Health creating the possibility of endowing specialty ambulatory units with performing equipment.</p> <p>The legislation regarding medical cabinets and possibility of their modernization.</p> <p>Possibility of recovering communal medical cabinets through the Development program with projects of Braila County.</p>	<p>Sub financing as a follow up of the administrative decentralization.</p> <p>Suspension/interruption/diminishing of some national financing programs as a follow up of the world economical crisis.</p> <p>The law of sponsorship does not provide fiscal facilities for the cultural sponsors.</p> <p>Local subsidiaries of the banks cannot take decisions for financial supporting certain cultural events.</p> <p>Accentuation of the degradation state of functioning of a part of the libraries.</p> <p>Degradation and closure of medical units due to the lack of funding and faulty management.</p> <p>Migration of medical staff with superior and medium training outside tge county/country.</p> <p>School abandon and reduced frequency of students out of financial reasons and the lack of perspectives on the labour market;</p> <p>Migration of didactic staff towards life environments more advantageous (urban, other countries).</p>

<b>Environment</b>	
<b>Strong points</b>	<b>Weak points</b>
<p>County Braila comprises the following protected areas according to art. 5, alin (1) from O.U.G. no. 57/2007 regarding the regime of natural protected areas, conservation of natural habitats, of wild flora and fauna:</p> <p>a) Of national interest: natural parks (Balta Mica a Brailei), natural reservations (Lake Jirlau, Forest Camnita), areas in provisory regime of protection (Lake Tataru).</p> <p>b) of international interest: zvet areas of international importance, reservations of the biosphere (Small Island of Braila).</p> <p>c) of community interest or sites “NATURA 2000”: important community sites, special conservation areas, special bird protection areas:  ROSCI0005 Balta Alba-Amara-Jirlau- Salt Lake Cainenii  ROSCI0006 Small Island of Braila  ROSCI0012 Branch Macin  ROSCI0259 Calmatuiului Valley  ROSPA0004 Balta Alba-Amara-Jirlau  ROSPA0005 Small Island of Braila  ROPA0006 Balta Tataru  ROSPA0040 Old Danube – Branch Macin  ROSPA0048 Ianca-Plopu-Sarta  ROSPA0071 Inferior Siret alluvial plain  ROSPA0077 Maxineni  Lake Tataru.</p> <p>d) of county and local interest: established only on the public/private domain of the administrative-territorial unit (Forest Viisoara, monument of nature - Popina Blasova).</p> <p>Monitoring of atmospheric pollution by automated stations of monitoring of air quality.</p> <p>Monitoring of surface and subterranean waters in integrated system (flows, physical-chemical factors, saprobe index, water consume etc.)and establishment of</p> <p>The soils state is evaluated, especially for the framing into areas with soils affected by zoo technical residues, agricultural lands irrigation, critical areas form the point of view of soil degradation/pollution, vulnerable areas that require ecological reconstruction.</p>	<p>Lack of certain and efficient solutions for the use of natural fertilizers and renouncing, as much as possible, at chemical substances.</p> <p>In the present structure of ensemble of the vegetal production into Braila county, there are important surfaces that are not given the best use, therefore the 31,0 thousand ha of psamosoils are cultivated with cereals and technical plants when it is known that these lands are favourable to fruit tree-farming plantations and vineyards.</p> <p>The forest bodies existent into the area of steppe are provided to be used for wood production.</p> <p>The system of treatment and disposal of waste waters is weekly developed.</p> <p>There are no separation, treatment /valorising stations and/or other methods for treatment/valorising of municipal waste.</p> <p>The storage platforms of waste in the rural areas must be reorganized and the areas must be reintroduced into natural circuit by ecological reconstruction.</p> <p>Large investments necessary for the fulfilment of EU requirements in the waste management sector.</p> <p>Small surface of lands occupied by green spaces.</p>
<b>Opportunities</b>	<b>Threats</b>
<p>Strengthening of administrative structures as basic element for the construction of a robust system of the environment.</p> <p>Possibility of using non-conventional energies offered by the natural system of Braila county (sun, wind, water, geothermal waters, etc) through new technologies.</p> <p>Extension of the county network of protected areas and natural reservations, recovery of the infrastructure, ecological and economical re-dimension of Braila County.</p> <p>Strengthening of national and international partnerships with institutions which have as field of activity the evaluation of biodiversity and environmental protection;</p>	<p>Insufficient collaboration with the research-development Institutes in the country and/or aboard and the realization of consortiums for the integrated monitoring of the environment and taking decisions for medium and long term.</p> <p>Insufficiency of financial resources for realizing certain programs at county level and the co-financing of projects from EU funds.</p> <p>Insufficiently trained staff for the implementation and effective application of policies in the field of environment protection.</p> <p>Week identification of certain additional financing resources, in conditions of sustainability, for realizing large projects</p>

<p>strengthening the partnership with ONGs into the process of elaboration and implementation of environmental policies.</p> <p>Realization of programs/projects for attracting national and European funds for the environment protection and implementation of environmental policies and durable development.</p> <p>Anticipation of climate changes and elaboration of both solutions for adaptation of a long term and certain plans of inter-sector contingency measures, comprising portfolios of alternative solutions for crisis situations generated by natural or man-caused phenomenon.</p> <p>Insuring security and alimentary safety by valorising the advantages provided by the natural environment of Braila county, regarding agricultural production development, including organic products.</p> <p>Protection and valorising cultural and national regional/county patrimony;</p> <p>Revitalization of traditional life styles must be accompanied by the connection to the European norms and standards regarding the quality of life.</p>	<p>and programs, especially in the field of infrastructure, energy, environment protection, food safety, education, health and social services.</p> <p>Week Protection and valorising of cultural and national regional/county patrimony.</p> <p>Insufficient/absent funding for the revitalization, into modernity, of traditional life styles, taking into account the history and tradition of Braila County (attracting tourists).</p> <p>Most of the natural protected areas have no administrator, attracting at the same time a fable management of these areas with special regime.</p>
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#### 4. CONCLUSIONS

For the period 2009–2012, the average annual rhythm of growth of the county gross domestic product shall be of 0.5%, a level equal to the national average (0.5%), but superior to the regional one (0.6%), county Braila occupying 4<sup>th</sup> place within the South-Eastern Region from the point of view of the economic growth. Into a national hierarchy, Braila county is situated into the first half (place 16). After the fall in the year 2009 (–4.2%), the economy of Braila county shall replay its growth starting with 2010 (0.3%), the growing tendency continuing in the interval 2013–2015. generally, the Braila county's economy follows the same rising trend recorded at the South-Eastern Region's level but also at a national level, only that the amplitude of the phenomenon is slightly different.

The evolution of the gross domestic product shall influence also the level of the gross domestic product per inhabitant. Therefore, in the year 2009 the gross domestic product per inhabitant shall be reduced with 9.5% compared to the year 2008, reaching a level of 3993 euro and shall be situated both under the national level (5839 euro), and the regional one (4892 euro). It shall reach to 5233 euro, in 2012, with 1172 euro under the regional average (6405 euro) and with 2377 euro under the national level (7610 euro), and at the end of the prognosis interval, respectively 2015, shall be of 7069 euro, with 1473 euro under the regional average (8542). Regarding the position it is situated on into the regional and national hierarchy, from the point of view of the gross domestic product per inhabitant, Braila County is maintaining, at the level of the year 2012, on 3<sup>rd</sup> place within the South-Eastern Region, climbing one place compared to the year 2008 and on place 30 into the national top.

The disparity index of the gross domestic product per inhabitant in Braila county shall be situated, in the year 2012 at 68.8% out of the national level and at 81.7% out of the regional average.

Regarding the contribution of Braila county to the realization of the county gross domestic product, from 10.8 % as it was in 2007 it has dropped and shall be maintained at 10.5%, with a slight tendency of dropping towards the year 2015, situating on the 4<sup>th</sup> position within the South-Eastern Region.

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